representation in the public service. The reason for the fewness of Catholics in the Government service was attributed by him to the partiality shown by higher officials to the members of their own community in the distribution of official favour. The Member pointed out that the unsympathetic attitude of heads of departments towards Catholics in that respect was on several occasions brought to the notice of the Government through the Legislative Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Press.

The Member then proceeded to discuss at length the poor representation of Catholics in the several departments of the State service, such as the Judicial, Police, Education, Registration, Agriculture, Co-operation, Excise, Forest and Sanitary Departments. He also pointed out that in the Secretariat and the Account Office there were only four or five Catholics in the subordinate ranks. Catholics were not admitted into the State Military Department, nor was the prospect of their securing due admission in the Land Revenue Department any the better even after its separation from the Devaswom Department.

With a view to secure adequate representation to Catholics in the service, the Member suggested that strict instructions be issued to heads of departments to appoint only members of such communities as were not already well represented whenever vacancies arose, in proportion to the numerical strength and the educational advancement of the communities concerned.

President's reply.—Mr. Augustine, you have also referred to what Mr. Mathew has already stated. Regarding the representation of Roman Catholics, nothing more can be said than what has been already said by the Dewan yesterday. They could be only appointed without prejudice to efficiency, character and education, and without prejudice to the interests of those already in the service.

106. Certain defects in the Administration of the Police Department.

Mr. Lonan Lonan Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that he had nothing more to represent than what Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai had stated under Subject No. 95.

107. General needs of the Town of Shencottah.

Mr. Chellaswami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the minor roads within the town which were not maintained by the P. W. D. might with advantage be transferred to the Municipal Council, together with the funds allotted for their maintenance. Roads within the municipal limits which were not being maintained by the P. W. D., or for that matter, by any agency, must vest in the Municipality, as such roads, being by the side of human habitations, had to be properly looked after from a sanitary point of view.

The next point urged on the attention of Government was the desirability of appointing the local P. W. D. Officer as one of the official councillors. He classified the work of the Municipalities under 3 heads, *viz.*, sanitation, collection of revenue and public works. There was the Sanitary Commissioner to advise the Municipality in regard to sanitary matters. For the collection of municipal revenue, the President was invested with the powers of a Dewan Peishkar. As for public works, only the major Municipalities enjoyed the privilege of claiming the advice of the P. W. D. Officers and the Shencottah Municipality had very often felt the need for a P. W. D. Officer on the Council. He therefore emphasised the necessity of invariably appointing P. W. D. Officers as official members of Municipal Councils wherever possible, so that the Council might have the benefit of their professional advice in matters relating to public works.

The Member next spoke about the attendance of judges of Village Panchayat Courts. He said that the want of a definite provision in the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation prescribing a penalty for the non-attendance of judges similar to Section 19, 1 (*b*), of the Municipal Regulation caused much inconvenience to the people. To obviate the difficulty the Member proposed the insertion of a Section similar to the one in the Municipal Regulation.

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